

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00
OMB-01 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 XMB-02 OPIC-03
LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 DHA-02 /141 W
-----090522 270458Z /17

R 270345Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8169

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, SN, US

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: GOS PARTICIPATION IN UN

REF: (A) STATE 159747, (B) SINGAPORE 2778, (C) 76 SINGAPORE 0978
(D) SINGAPORE 1347

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON SINGAPORE'S PARTICIPATION IN
UN IS KEYED TO PARA 7 OF 76 STATE 037591.

2. (A) SINGAPORE'S

PRINCIPLE MULTILATERAL INTERESTS ARE:

ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT OF ASEAN AS A CLOSE-KNIT REGIONAL
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ASSOCIATION, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE
SINGAPORE WITH A PRIVILEGED MARKET FOR ITS INDUSTRIAL
PRODUCTION, PRESERVE FOR SINGAPORE ITS ROLE AS REGIONAL
FINANCIAL AND TRADE CENTER, AND CONTRIBUTE GENERALLY TO
REGIONAL STABILITY AND THE MAINTENANCE OF MODERATE, PRO-
WESTERN GOVERNMENTS IN THE ASEAN COUNTRIES.

CONCLUSION OF A SATISFACTORY LOS TREATY, PARTICULARLY IN
THE ISSUES OF TRANSIT OF INTERNATIONAL STRAITS AND OF
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LANDLOCKED, SHELFLOCKED AND GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED
COUNTRIES. GOS BELIEVES THAT STRAITS ISSUE IW WELL ON
WAY TO RSOLUTION, WITH MALAYSIA SATISFIED WITH RESULTS
OF RECNT LOS CONFERENCE SIXTH SESSION AND INDONESIA
RECONCILED TO COMPROMISE THAT INCLUDES ACCEPTANCE OF
ARCHIPELAGIC PRINCIPLE. GOS MUCH LESS HAPPY ABOUT
COASTAL STATES RELUCTANCE TO MAKE CONCESSIONS TO

GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED COUNTRIES SUCH AS SINGAPORE.

GOS WILL PURSUE THESE INTERESTS LARGELY OUTSIDE UNGA FRAMEWORK, ALTHOUGH ASEAN COUNTRIES INCREASINGLY SEEK TO

COORDINATE THEIR POSITIONS ON SIGNIFICANT UN ISSUES (SEE BELOW).

3. GOS PRESENTLY PLANNING NO INITIATIVES IN RESUMED 31ST OR REGULAR 32ND UNGA SESSIONS. MFA OFFICER TOLD US FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM WILL MAKE "ROUTINE" SPEECH AT 31ST UNGA. NOR WILL GOS SEEK MEMBERSHIP IN MULTILATERAL BODIES OR PROPOSE SINGAPOREAN CANDIDATES FOR UN OFFICE. GOS ONLY RARELY HAS SOUGHT OFFICE IN ITS BRIEF HISTORY: IT HAS TWICE BEEN RE-ELECTED TO UNCITRAL, IN WHICH IT IS INTERESTED BECAUSE OF IMPORTANCE TO SINGAPORE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE REGULATIONS, AND WAS MEMBER OF NOW DEFUNCT SEABEDS COMMITTEE. AS A RULE, GOS WILL SUPPORT CANDIDATE FROM OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES.

4. (B) GOS POLICY IS TO VOTE WITH G-77 AND NO -ALIGNED GROUP WHENEVER IT CAN DO SO WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO ITS OWN INTERESTS OR SERIOUS CONFLICT WITH ITS FOREIGN POLICY PRINCIPLES. GOS IS EVEN MORE RELUCTANT TO BREAK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RANKS WITH ASEAN PARTNERS, ALTHOUGH IT HAS OCCASIONALLY DONE SO (E.G., ABSTAINING ON TIMORE ISSUE, DESPITE HEAVY INDONESIAN PRESSURE, BECAUSE OF ITS POLICY ON SELF-DETERMINATION). DEPARTMENT IS AWARE ON SINGAPORE'S

GENERALLY MODERATE STANCE AMONG LDCS AND ITS EFFORTS TO INFLUENCE ASEAN COLLEAGUES TO SUPPORT POSITIONS IT CONSIDERS REALISTIC (E.G., GOS HAS PLAYED USEFUL PART IN MODERATING LDC DEMANDS IN LOS CONFERENCE).

5. (C) MFA OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT GOS MISSION TO UN PREPARES BRIEFS RECOMMENDING POSITIONS ON SIGNIFICANT ISSUES EXPECTED TO BE RAISED AT UN MEETINGS, INCLUDING UNGA. THESE ARE REVIEWED AND NORMALLY APPROVED BY GOS. IF A QUESTION IMPORTANT TO SINGAPORE ARISES UNEXPECTEDLY, MISSION CABLES RECOMMENDED POSITION TO GOS AND THIS TOO IS LIKELY TO BE APPROVED, ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN EXCEPTIONS. IN EFFECT, GOS MULTILATERAL EXPERTISE IS LARGELY LOCATED IN NEW YORK AND IT ENJOYS CONFIDENCE OF GOVERNMENT, ALTHOUGH ALL IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS OR

POSITIONS ARE REVIEWED HERE. THIS DOES NOT MEAN, HOW-

EVER, THAT U.S. REPRESENTATIONS TO MFA ARE WITHOUT EFFECT;
SMALL MFA MULTILATERAL STAFF IS COMPETENT AND REASONABLY
KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT KEY UN ISSUES; STRONG U.S. VIEWS
WILL BE TAKEN FULLY INTO ACCOUNT; SINGAPORE IS KEENLY
INTERESTED IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., BOTH BILATERALLY
AND IN THE ASEAN CONTEXT.

6. (D) AND (E) REF C REPLIES ON THESE PARAS REMAIN
VALID. FOR GENERAL STATEMENT ON GOS MULTILATERAL
OBJECTIVES, SEE SINGAPORE'S PARM (REF D).

7. MFA INFORMS US THAT AMBASSADOR KOH HAS BEEN ASKED
TO STAY ON AT UN FOR THREE MORE YEARS.
HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 27-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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